

Bridget Russell Hebert
P.O. Box 1267
Hammond, LA 70404

2015 APR 23 11:01
OFFICE

April 22, 2015
Re: MUR 6916

General counsel's Office

In reference to MUR 6916, I, Bridget Hebert, hereby respectfully and willingly submit my response and furthermore fully agree to the best of my ability, to cooperate truthfully and in good faith with this and any and all requests of the committee until such time that these issues, if any, germane to me or my committee are resolved.

Until receipt of this complaint, and having read it, I had no knowledge or any awareness whatsoever of the existence of any scheme, device, plan, coordination, collaboration and/or implementation or enactment of those alleged matters mentioned in the complaint, whether individual, collective or in any combination thereof.

Of further interest to the Committee, it should be meaningful to note that before I read the complaint, I had never heard of Harold Ickes, Catalyst, L.L.C., Laura Quinn, Democracy Alliance, Al Dwoskin, Obama for America, American votes, Emily's List, Ready for Hillary, AFL-CIO Worker's voices, NARAL, Leagux of Conservation Voters or SEIU.

It seems, in my reading of this complaint, my committee's alleged involvement concerns the purchase of VAN and/or a check that was made payable to The Democratic Party of Louisiana (See Attached). At the request of my father, the candidate, I agreed to volunteer to help him by serving as treasurer and record keeper. I only did what I was instructed to do. I made absolutely no decisions on my own, including any purchasing decisions, and had absolutely no involvement in any strategic planning. I am registered as an Independent as have been since I was eighteen (18) years old. I have no personal connection to the Democratic Party or any of the other respondents. Further, prior to this election, I had no Federal Election experience whatsoever and have never served in any capacity in any campaign, including local, state or federal.

My father hired a campaign manager by the name of Steve Verswyvelt to advise myself and the other members of the committee what was acceptable and within the rules of the Federal Elections Law, with which he held himself out to be an expert and experienced professional. Verswyvelt insisted that my father purchase VAN. I am not familiar with this VAN program and do not have any knowledge of how it relates to anyone or this complaint. The only thing I recall about VAN was using it to initially submit the contributions and expenses reports to the Federal Elections Committee. Steve Verswyvelt,

Bridget R. Hebert

used the VAN program to record donations and expenditures as they were received/incurred, and would guide me through filing the reports when they were due.

When he abandoned the campaign, I was in the position of trying to figure out how to get the reports submitted. Since I had no knowledge or experience with VAN, I downloaded the report database from the Federal Elections website and re-entered all of the previous report information. Going forward, all of my reports were submitted through this database, not VAN.

Further, Steve Verswyvelt, insisted that we use the VAN program to collect campaign contributions online. We decided not to use VAN, as it was determined that VAN was too expensive.

I hereby thank you for your consideration and respectfully request that my father, the committee and myself be released from this complaint.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bridget Russell Hebert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bridget Russell Hebert

April 22, 2015

Re: MUR 6916

General Counsel's Office:

In reference to MUR 6916, I, Weldon Russell, hereby respectfully and willingly submit my response and furthermore fully agree to the best of my ability, to cooperate truthfully and in good faith with this and any and all requests of the committee until such time that these issues, if any, germane to me or my committee are resolved.

Until receipt of this complaint, and having read it, I had no knowledge or any awareness whatsoever of the existence of any scheme, device, plan, coordination, collaboration and/or implementation or enactment of those alleged matters mentioned in the complaint, whether individual, collective or in any combination thereof.

Of further interest to the Committee, it should be meaningful to note that prior to having read the complaint, I had never heard of Harold Ickes, Catalist, L.L.C., Laura Quinn, Democracy Alliance, Al Dwoskin, Obama for America, American votes, Emily's List, Ready for Hillary, AFL-CIO Worker's voices, NARAL, Leagux of Conservation Voters or SEIU.

It seems, in my reading of this complaint, my committee's alleged involvement concerns the purchase of VAN and/or a check that was made payable to The Democratic Party of Louisiana. It should be known that prior to this election, I have had no federal election experience whatsoever, and therefore I decided to hire a campaign manager, Steve Verswyvelt. I was contacted by Verswyvelt, who solicited the job as campaign manager. He is the individual that insisted that we purchase VAN. It seems now that the check to The Democratic Party could in some way be related to this purchase. I had no reason to believe that this may have been in violation of anything. I simply took the advice of my manager. Because I had no Federal Election experience, I paid Verswyvelt specifically to advise myself and the other members of the committee what was acceptable and within the rules of the Federal Elections Law, with which he purported to be an expert and experienced professional. I needed an advisor because I only had approximately three (3) months to campaign in the 5th Congressional District.

Further, I asked my daughter, Bridget Hebert, to help and serve as my treasurer and record keeper. She agreed to volunteer to help me and only did what she was instructed to do. She also had no Federal Election experience whatsoever and had never served in any capacity in any campaign, including local, state or federal. She made absolutely no decisions on her own, including any purchasing decisions, and had absolutely no authority or involvement in any strategic planning. She is registered as an Independent and has been since she was eighteen (18) years old. She has no personal connection whatsoever to the Democratic Party or any of the other respondents.

During my campaign, I called numerous key political figures in the Democratic Party and did not even receive a return phone call, much less any help. This includes the following individuals, Mary Landreau, James Carville, John Breaux, Karen Carter and others. If I was a "who's who" of the



Democratic Party, as the complaint suggests I was, most certainly I would have had my phone calls returned.

Further, I did not receive any funds from any PACs. My committee only raised, \$11,150.00 for this campaign (see attached). I provided \$45,000.00 in loans in support my own candidacy (see attached).

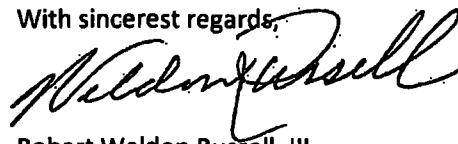
Campaign manager, Steve Verswyvelt, further insisted that we use the VAN program to collect campaign contributions online. I made the decision to use another program for this, as I felt that VAN was too expensive.

Also, Steve Verswyvelt, used the VAN program to record donations and expenditures while he was still working for the committee. He up and quit and left the campaign early in a lurch and from that point forward, my daughter, Bridget Hebert, started reporting the campaign donations and expenditures through the Federal Elections database which she had to familiarize herself with. This took her substantial time, effort and was extremely burdensome for her. Verswyvelt never took the time to familiarize her with the VAN program and therefore he added much undue stress. She was unfamiliar with VAN and did not even know how to use the program to submit the required reports. VAN was not used again by her for any reporting.

In concluding my response, it is important to inform the committee that I am not a member of the Democratic Party (D) having become an Independent (I) as per my request to the Registrar of Voters of Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana November 15, 2013, and as such, I am not an ideological ally of the Democratic Party, nor have I received any help from the Democratic Party.

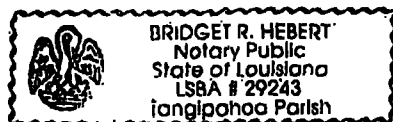
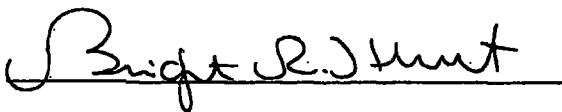
I thank you all sincerely for your favorable consideration in releasing me and my committee from this complaint.

With sincerest regards,



Robert Weldon Russell, III

Sworn and subscribed before me, Notary, on this 22nd day of April, 2015



Details for Committee ID : C00548974

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2014 COMMITTEE INFORMATION

C00548974

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name: WELDON RUSSELL FOR CONGRESS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Russell, Weldon

ID:

H4LA05155

Address: PO BOX 548, AMITE, LA 70422

Office: H - House

Treasurer Name: Bridget Hebert

State: LA, District: 05

Type: H - House

Designation: P - Principal Campaign Committee Of A Candidate

Party: Democratic Party

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - WELDON RUSSELL FOR CONGRESS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

From: 07/01/2013 To: 12/31/2014 ?

I. RECEIPTS

Itemized Individual Contributions \$10,950

Unitemized Individual Contributions \$200

Total Individual Contributions \$11,150

Party Committees Contributions \$0

Other Committees Contributions \$0

Candidate Contributions \$300

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS \$11,450

Transfers from Authorized Committees \$0

Candidate Loans \$45,000

Other Loans \$0

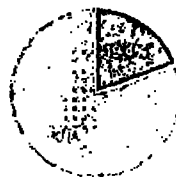
TOTAL LOANS \$45,000

Offsets to Operating Expenditures \$0

Other Receipts \$0

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$56,450

Receipts



- ☒ Itemized Individual Contributions
- ☒ Unitemized Individual Contributions
- ☒ Candidate Loans
- ☒ Candidate Contributions

II. DISBURSEMENTS

Operating Expenditures \$48,727

Transfers To Authorized Committees \$0

Candidate Loan Repayments \$4,167

Other Loan Repayments \$0

TOTAL LOAN REPAYMENTS \$4,167

Individual Refunds \$2,250

Political Party Refunds \$0

Other Committee Refunds \$0

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION REFUNDS \$2,250

Other Disbursements \$1,305

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$56,450

Disbursements



- ☒ Individual Refunds
- ☒ Operating Expenditures
- ☒ Candidate Loan Repayments
- ☒ Other Disbursements

III. CASH

SUMMARY

Beginning Cash On Hand	\$0
Ending Cash On Hand	\$0
Net Contributions	\$9,200
Net Operating Expenditures	\$48,727
Debts/Loans Owed By	\$40,832
Debts/Loans Owed To	\$500